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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
Land Economics Division

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BULLETIN OF OUTSTANDING FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATION AFFECTING
LAND USE DURING THE PERIOD OF MARCH 1, 1939 to MARCH 21, 1939

(Primarily for the information of Bureau of Agricultural Economics personnel and the Farm Security Administration and collaborating offices and agencies.)

I. FEDERAL LEGISLATION

AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT

S. 1569. Mr. Hatch. February 27, 1939. To Committee on Agriculture and Forestry.

To amend subsection (e) of section 344 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1939, as amended, by striking out, in the first line thereof, the words "1938 and 1939" and inserting in lieu thereof "1938, 1939, 1940 and 1941".

S. 1779. Mr. Walsh. March 13, 1939. To Committee on Agriculture and Forestry.

To extend the time for filing claims for refunds of amounts paid as taxes under the Agricultural Adjustment Act from July 1, 1937 to July 1, 1939.

FARM CREDIT

H. R. 4538. Mr. Pierce of Oregon. February 27, 1939. To Committee on Agriculture.

To prohibit deficiency judgments in real estate foreclosures by the Farm Credit Administration, the Federal Land Bank Commissioner, and the Federal land banks, and prohibiting an increased rate of interest after maturity.

H. R. 4873. Mr. Rees of Kansas. March 8, 1939. To Committee on Agriculture.

"Farm Credit Act of 1939". To amend the Federal Farm Loan Act, as amended, reducing interest from $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent per annum to 3 per cent per annum and declaring a moratorium on payments until July 1, 1943.

H. R. 4944. Mr. Stefan. March 10, 1939. To Committee on Agriculture.

To provide for liquidation of loans to farmers for crop production and harvesting for the years 1935, 1936, 1937 and 1938. To permit borrowers to repay loans through delivery to such appropriate agencies designated by the Governor of the Farm Credit Administration, of commodities in equal grade and proportion to those for which the loans were originally made. In the event of crop failure and resultant inability of borrowers to repay the loans in kind, borrowers may liquidate their loans through work according to regulations promulgated by the Governor of the Farm Credit Administration.

GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION

H. R. 4791. Mr. Pfeifer. March 6, 1939. To Committee on Expenditures in Executive Departments.

To establish a Department of Health with a Secretary of Health, an Under-Secretary of Health, and two Assistant Secretaries of Health, appointed by the President. The Food and Drug Administration of the Department of Agriculture, the Bureau of Census, Division of Vital Statistics of the Department of Commerce, Freedman's Hospital and Saint Elizabeth's Hospital of the Department of the Interior, the Children's Bureau of the Department of Labor, Public Health Service, Bureau of Narcotics, and the District of Columbia Health Department, shall have all their powers and functions transferred to the Department of Health.

H. R. 4893. Mr. Angell. March 9, 1939. To Select Committee on Government Organization.

To provide for reorganizing the agencies of the Government. The President shall investigate all agencies to determine what changes are necessary to eliminate waste and reduce expenditure, to increase the efficiency of operations, to consolidate the agencies wherever possible and put all agencies possible under a single head. In order to reorganize, consolidate or eliminate any agencies, the President must prepare a reorganization plan giving complete reasons for the changes and make regulations for

the new set-up, and present such plan to both Houses of Congress on the same day while both Houses are in session. The reorganization shall not become effective until after an enactment of a joint resolution agreeing upon the plan or its modification. No reorganization plan may include the following independent agencies: Civil Service Commission, Federal Trade Commission, Federal Power Commission, Federal Communications Commission, National Bituminous Coal Commission, General Accounting Office, Interstate Commerce Commission, Securities Exchange Commission, U. S. Board of Tax Appeals, U. S. Employees Compensation Commission, U. S. Maritime Commission, U. S. Tariff Commission, Civil Aeronautics Authority, Veteran's Administration, U. S. Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture, National Mediation Board, National Railroad Adjustment Board, Railroad Retirement Board, Corps of Engineers of the United States Army.

HOUSING

H. R. 4856. Mr. Tenerowicz. March 8, 1939. To Committee on Banking and Currency.

To reduce the rate of interest on Home Owner's Loan Corporation mortgages from a maximum of 5 per cent per annum to a maximum of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent per annum and to extend the payment and amortization period to 25 years.

S. 1633. Mr. Nead. February 28, 1939. To Committee on Banking and Currency.

To abolish personal and deficiency judgments that have been taken by the Home Owner's Loan Corporation in foreclosures and to forbid the taking of said judgments in the future.

LABOR

H. R. 4990. Mr. Hoffman. March 13, 1939. To Committee on Labor.

To repeal the National Labor Relations Act and create a National Labor Relations Board to diminish the causes of labor disputes burdening or obstructing interstate and foreign commerce. The Board shall be composed of three members, appointed by the President with consent of the Senate, for a term of five years. The Board is empowered to prevent any person from engaging in unfair labor practices affecting commerce.

SOIL CONSERVATION

H. R. 4753. Mr. Rees of Kansas. March 3, 1939. To Committee on Agriculture.

To increase the payments to small operators and de-

crease payments to large operators under the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act.

S. 1676. Mr. Hatch and Mr. Chavez. March 2, 1939.
To Committee on Agriculture and Forestry.

To authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to make payments for fences and reservoirs in connection with the 1937 range program under the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act, as amended.

TAXES

H. R. 4933. Mr. Luther A. Johnson. March 10, 1939. To Committee on Agriculture.

To provide for the refund of taxes as applying to the cotton industry, collected under Public Law Number 169, Seventy-Third Congress, known as the Bankhead Act. The sum of \$52,500,000 is authorized to be appropriated for making these refunds.

TENANCY

H. R. 4994. Mr. D'Connor. March 13, 1939. To Committee on Agriculture.

To amend Section 33 of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act, approved July 22, 1937, to read as follows:

"As soon as practicable after the end of each calendar year, the Secretary shall pay to the county in which any land is held by the Secretary under this title, 50 per centum of the net revenues received by the Secretary from the use of the land during such year. In case the land is situated in more than one county, the amount to be paid shall be equitably divided among the respective counties. Payments to counties under this section shall be made on the condition that they are used for school or road purposes, or both. This section shall not be construed to apply to amounts received from the sale of land."

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

S. 1793. Mr. Bankhead and Mr. Donahay. March 13, 1939.
To Committee on Agriculture and Forestry.

To provide compensation for the loss of or to property caused by flooding of lands by the Tennessee Valley Authority. The amount of compensation is to be ascertained by appraisers of the Authority and to represent the value of the realty lost or damaged.

II. STATE LEGISLATION

AGRICULTURE

Georgia. S. B. 22. Regular Session. Approved February 22, 1939. Ch. 73, Laws 1939.

To provide that planting, cultivating, harvesting and marketing of trees shall be considered an agricultural pursuit under the laws of Georgia, and to amend the Code Section 67-1107 of the Code of Georgia (1933) defining "crops" and "growing crops" as used in statutes relating to bills of sale, mortgages, etc., by providing that naval stores operators or manufactures and also the original producers of turpentine products shall be known and designated as farmers.

Utah. H. B. 25. Regular Session. Approved February 21, 1939.

To control the spreading of noxious weeds by transporting the seed from farm to farm by the operation of farm machinery. To require a license for operation of binders, threshing machines or combine harvesting machines. Operators of such machines shall be required to keep same clean and free of weeds, seeds, grain and refuse when moving them from farm to farm.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION

Indiana. H. B. 147. Regular Session. Approved March 7, 1939.

To enable cities of the fifth class having a population of more than 5,000 to establish a department of public parks. The Department may acquire land for and improve parks of the city and district and assess the cost thereof upon all property within the city and district and issue bonds to defray the cost.

REAL PROPERTY

Massachusetts. S. B. 434. Regular Session. Approved February 24, 1939. Ch. 32, Laws 1939.

To increase the amount of exemption allowed by law to owners of estates of homestead from \$800.00 to \$4,000.00.

South Dakota. S. B. 128. Regular Session. Approved February 23, 1939.

To validate all mortgage foreclosure sales of real property by advertisement, under power of sale contained in such mortgage, heretofore made by any receiver, administrator or executor, appointed by a court, or any like foreclosures made by the assignee of any such receiver, and where such receiver acquired title to such mortgage by virtue of such appointment, and not by assignment.

SOIL CONSERVATION

Montana. H. B. 126. Regular Session. Approved February 28, 1939. Ch. 72, Laws 1939.

To create soil conservation districts and establish a soil conservation committee. To empower the district to acquire property, adopt programs and regulations for the discontinuance of land use practices contributing to soil erosion and to provide for the financial assistance to such districts. Repealing Chapter 154, Laws of the Regular Session of the Twenty-Fifth Legislative Assembly.

TAXES

Alabama. H. B. 57. Regular Session. Approved March 2, 1939. Governor's Number 65, Laws 1939.

To make taxable, property and activities of the United States and its agencies, except where the State of Alabama is without constitutional authority to impose such taxes.

Arkansas. S. B. 34. Regular Session. Approved February 13, 1939. Act Number 56, Acts 1939.

To provide for the collection of delinquent assessments by road improvement districts and by road maintenance districts. A penalty of 25 per cent is attached for delinquency with interest at 6 per cent per annum and all cost of proceedings.

Indiana. S. B. 52. Regular Session. Approved February 23, 1939.

To exempt any city or town from all taxes, real or personal, on properties or services and income thereupon, on public schools, public libraries, municipally owned parks, golf courses, playgrounds, swimming pools, hospitals, water works, electric utility, gas and heating plants, sewage treatment and disposal plants, cemeteries, auditoriums, gymnasiums and any and all other municipally owned property; provided this Act shall not exempt any city or town from the requirement to pay the tax on gross receipts under the Gross Income Tax Law.

Montana. S. B. 12. Regular Session. Approved February 7, 1939. Ch. 11, Laws 1939.

To permit real property to be redeemed from tax sale by paying the original tax, provided such original taxes be paid on or before February 1, 1941.

North Dakota. S. B. 27. Regular Session. Approved January 28, 1939.

To provide that in proceedings taken under the provisions of Chapter 266 of the Session Laws of 1927, no

tax deed shall be issued prior to October 1, 1939 and the period of redemption from any tax sale under the provisions of said Chapter is extended to October 1, 1939.

North Dakota. S. B. 51. Regular Session. Approved February 20, 1939.

To provide for the redemption of real estate forfeited to the county for delinquent taxes, at any time tax title remains in the county prior to resale, upon payment of the amount which would have been required to effect a redemption had no tax deed been issued, plus interest at 4 per cent per annum from the date of execution of the tax deed; provided right of redemption shall not interfere with right of the county to resell real estate acquired by tax deed at any time as otherwise provided by law. The County Auditor shall issue a quitclaim deed in behalf of the county to the person redeeming such real estate.

The Board of County Commissioners shall have the power to contract for deed for resale to the former owner, of any real estate forfeited to the county on tax deed proceedings, upon the same terms as redemption could be made, provided, no such redemption amount is paid in cash at the time of execution of the contract and the balance, with accrued interest at four per cent, shall be payable in annual installments within three years. Where installments with interest have been paid in full, county auditor shall issue a quitclaim deed in favor of the vendee or his assignee.

South Dakota. H. B. 77. Regular Session. Approved February 25, 1939.

To enable part owners of real property to pay taxes on their proportionate interest and to provide for the sale of the interest of any co-owner in such real estate for delinquent taxes.

WATER UTILIZATION

Washington. S. B. 125. Regular Session. Approved February 17, 1939. Ch. 13, Laws 1939.

To provide for the division of irrigation districts comprising an area of 200,000 or more acres of land, into director divisions and for the election of directors for such divisions, on the board of directors of the irrigation district. To limit the amounts of district assessments which may be levied in any director division in any one year to 2 cents per acre.

